<u>What is Claimed is</u>:

1. A method for creating an intellectual property assets index for the support of futures or options contracts comprising:

electronically capturing intellectual property assets data from selected sources;

electronically compiling the intellectual property assets data;

electronically sorting the intellectual property assets data; and

electronically updating the intellectual property assets data to form an intellectual property assets index.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the intellectual property assets index is based on a particular group of companies.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the particular group of companies is a group of companies in substantially the same industry.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the particular group of companies is a group of companies having a particular market capitalization.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the intellectual property assets index is based on a user configurable group of companies.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the user configurable group of companies is based on an existing portfolio.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises the number of citations to a patent by a national patent office.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises the number of patents issued to an entity by a national patent office.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises the age of a patent.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises litigation results.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises licensing contracts.

12. A method for creating a user configurable futures or options contract based on an intellectual property assets index comprising:

selecting an intellectual property assets index;

setting the terms of the user configurable futures or options contract on the intellectual property assets index; and

posting the user configurable futures or options contract on the intellectual property assets index.

13. A method for creating a bankruptcy index for the support of futures or options contracts comprising:

electronically capturing financial data from selected sources;

electronically compiling the financial data;

electronically sorting the financial data; and

electronically updating the financial data to form a bankruptcy index.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the bankruptcy index is based on a pre-determined group of companies.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the pre-determined group of companies is a group of companies in the same industry.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the pre-determined group of companies is a group of companies having a particular market capitalization.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the bankruptcy index is based on a user configurable group of companies.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the user configurable group of companies is based on an existing portfolio.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the financial data comprises stock prices.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein the financial data comprises credit status.

21. The method of claim 13, wherein the financial data comprises bond prices.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein the financial data comprises debt obligations.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein the compiling comprises multiplying the financial data by a bankruptcy multiplier, the bankruptcy multiplier based on a credit event.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein the compiling comprises applying a set algorithm designed such that the effect of a bankruptcy on the bankruptcy index would be disproportionately greater than the effect the bankruptcy would have on the bankruptcy index as a function of a lowered stock price of a company on which the financial data is based.

25. A method for creating a user configurable futures or options contract based on a bankruptcy index comprising:

selecting a bankruptcy index;

setting the terms of the user configurable futures or options contract on the bankruptcy index; and

posting the user configurable futures or options contract on the bankruptcy index.

26. A system for creating an index for the support of futures or options contracts on intellectual property assets, the system comprising:

an index processor operative to:

electronically capture intellectual property assets data from selected sources;

electronically compile the intellectual property assets data;

electronically sort the intellectual property assets data; and

electronically update the intellectual property assets data to form a intellectual property assets index.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the intellectual property assets index is based on a particular group of companies.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the particular group of companies is a group of companies in the same industry.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein the particular group of companies is a group of companies having a particular market capitalization.

30. The system of claim 26, wherein the intellectual property assets index is based on a user configurable group of companies.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the user configurable group of companies is based on an existing portfolio.

32. The system of claim 26, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises the number of citations to a patent by a national patent office..

33. The system of claim 26, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises the number of patents issued to an entity by a national patent office.

34. The system of claim 26, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises the age of a patent.

35. The system of claim 26, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises litigation results.

36. The system of claim 26, wherein the intellectual property assets data comprises licensing contracts.

37. A system for creating a user configurable futures or options contract based on an intellectual property assets index comprising:

a server storage device;

a server processor connected to the server storage device, the server storage device storing a program for controlling the server processor;

a plurality of workstations, each of the plurality of workstations operative to communicate with the server, each of the workstations comprising:

a workstation storage device;

a workstation processor connected to the workstation storage device, the workstation

storage device storing a workstation program for controlling the workstation processor, the workstation processor operative with the workstation program to:

select an intellectual property assets index;

set the terms of the user configurable futures or options contract on the intellectual property assets index; and

post the user configurable futures or options contract on the intellectual property assets index.

38. A system for trading futures or options contracts on a bankruptcy index comprising:

a storage device;

a processor connected to the storage device, the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the program to:

create a bankruptcy index; and

post a futures or options contract based on the bankruptcy index.

39. A system for creating a bankruptcy index for the support of futures or options contracts, the system comprising:

an index processor operative to:

electronically capture financial data from selected sources;

electronically compile the financial data;

electronically sort the financial data; and

electronically update the financial data to form a bankruptcy index.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein the bankruptcy index is based on a particular group of companies.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the particular group of companies is a group of companies in the same industry.

42. The system of claim 40, wherein the particular group of companies is a group of companies having a particular market capitalization.

43. The system of claim 39, wherein the bankruptcy index is based on a user configurable group of companies.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein the user configurable group of companies is based on an existing portfolio.

45. The system of claim 39, wherein the financial data comprises stock prices.

46. The system of claim 39, wherein the financial data comprises credit status.

47. The system of claim 39, wherein the financial data comprises bond prices.

48. The system of claim 39, wherein the financial data comprises debt obligations.

49. The system of claim 39, wherein the compiling comprises multiplying financial data by a bankruptcy number.

50. The system of claim 39, wherein the compiling comprises applying a set algorithm designed such that the effect of a bankruptcy on the bankruptcy index would be disproportionately greater than the effect the bankruptcy would have on the bankruptcy index as a function of a lowered stock price of a company on which the financial data is based.

51. A system for creating a user configurable futures or options contract based on a bankruptcy index comprising:

a server storage device;

a server processor connected to the server storage device, the server storage device storing a program for controlling the server processor;

a plurality of workstations, each of the plurality of workstations operative to communicate with the server, each of the workstations comprising:

a workstation storage device;

a workstation processor connected to the workstation storage device, the workstation storage device storing a workstation program for controlling the workstation processor, the workstation processor operative with the workstation program to:

select a bankruptcy index;

set the terms of the user configurable futures or options contract on the bankruptcy index; and

post the user configurable futures or options contract on the bankruptcy index.